Fourth Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference

Final report

The Conference was held in Portland on 5-6 September 2013. The Conference is an annual forum for researchers and practitioners to convene and exchange scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the effects of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. Previous Conferences were held in Portland in 2010, Seattle in 2011, and Boise in 2012. The Conference attracts a wide range of participants including policy- and decision-makers, resource managers, public agency staff, NGO personnel, as well as scientists. As such, the Conference emphasizes oral presentations that are comprehensible to a wide audience and on topics of broad interest and aims to be the best opportunity to stimulate and showcase decision-relevant climate science.

Conference participants in 2013 included 277 who pre-registered and about 30 who registered on-site. Of these, about 55% were based at institutions of higher education and 45% at agencies, tribal entities, private sector, non-government organizations, or other affiliations. A total of 81 students and 19 tribal staff or members registered for the conference.

The program included 12 plenary presentations, from which notable speakers included US Senator Jeff Merkley and EPA regional administrator Dennis McLerran. The bulk of the oral presentations, 38, took place during concurrent sessions. Of the 122 abstracts submitted to the conference, six were rejected, 48 were accepted for oral presentation (out of 93 requests), and the remaining 68 accepted for poster presentation. Of those, 10 were withdrawn, which was fortunate, because even 58 was a tight fit; several submissions came in right after the deadline and they were not even considered. Demand for oral spots was quite high.

Support from USGS allowed us to offer 41 registration waivers to students, members of tribal nations, and staff of tribal organizations.

